

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 14

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Eleanor Chavez

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO EXPAND ITS SCOPE OF WORK TO
INCLUDE PRE-SCREENING FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE ON ADMISSION TO A
HOSPITAL, DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS FOR SAFETY, QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT AND PREVENTION OF HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS AND
IDENTIFICATION OF COST SAVINGS THAT ACCRUE AS A RESULT OF
VIGOROUS SURVEILLANCE OF HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED INFECTIONS.

WHEREAS, the Hospital-Acquired Infection Act was signed
into law on April 7, 2009, establishing the hospital-acquired
infection advisory committee and identifying a scope of work
for that advisory committee; and

WHEREAS, the advisory committee has been overseeing an
initial voluntary participation of six hospitals in the
surveillance and reporting of two indicators of hospital-

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1 acquired infections; and

2 WHEREAS, the law requires an expansion of the activities
3 of the initial voluntary program to a statewide program of
4 qualified hospitals by July 1, 2011; and

5 WHEREAS, there is widespread interest in tracking
6 hospital-acquired infections, including federal health reform
7 measures, at least one of which includes requirements to report
8 on health care-associated infections to the federal centers for
9 disease control and prevention and to refuse reimbursement for
10 medicaid payments for certain health care-associated
11 conditions; and

12 WHEREAS, the state of Pennsylvania was the first state in
13 the nation to begin collecting and reporting information about
14 hospital-acquired infections; and

15 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has issued its first report on
16 hospital-acquired infections, entitled *Hospital-Acquired*
17 *Infections in Pennsylvania*, which reflects that hospital-
18 acquired infections were associated with one thousand seven
19 hundred ninety-three deaths and an estimated two hundred five
20 thousand extra hospital days and two billion dollars
21 (\$2,000,000,000) in additional hospital charges in that state;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the vigilant collection and reporting of
24 information regarding hospital-acquired infections in New
25 Mexico could lead to substantial savings for the health care

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1 system; and

2 WHEREAS, pre-screening for the presence of infection prior
3 to hospital admission could lead to more effective and
4 appropriate treatment of patients; and

5 WHEREAS, information of this nature should be used to
6 improve patient safety and enhance prevention efforts for
7 hospitals statewide;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the hospital-acquired infection
10 advisory committee in the department of health be requested to
11 expand its scope of work to include pre-screening for
12 infectious disease on admission to a hospital, development of
13 standards for safety, quality improvement and prevention of
14 hospital-acquired infections and identification of cost savings
15 that accrue as a result of vigorous surveillance of hospital-
16 acquired infections; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report of the progress of
18 the hospital-acquired infection advisory committee to achieve
19 these goals, as well as the statutory requirements of the
20 advisory committee, be presented to the interim legislative
21 health and human services committee by November 2010; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the secretary of health.

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